

Claims

- [c1] 1. An evacuation system comprising:
a plurality of detectors, each of said plurality of detectors being designed to detect an undesirable situation at a corresponding location and to generate an alarm in response to detecting said undesirable situation;
a plurality of voice point modules, wherein each of said plurality of voice point modules is individually addressable and is capable of playing voice messages; and
a station being designed to receive said alarm and to cause a potentially different message to be played on each of said plurality of voice point modules, whereby an operator using said station has enhanced control over evacuation.
- [c2] 2. The evacuation system of claim 1, further comprising:
a fire alarm control panel (FACP) being positioned between said station and said plurality of detectors, said FACP receiving said alarm from each of said plurality of detectors, and forwarding said alarms to said station, wherein said station sends packets directly to said plurality of voice point modules without said FACP being in the path from said station to said plurality of detectors.

- [c3] 3. The evacuation system of claim 2, wherein said station communicates with said plurality of voice point modules over a network, wherein each of said plurality of voice modules is individually addressable by an addressing approach specified by said network.
- [c4] 4. The evacuation system of claim 3, wherein said network is implemented using Internet Protocol (IP), wherein each of said plurality of voice point modules is addressed by at least one IP address.
- [c5] 5. The evacuation system of claim 3, wherein said station enables said operator to speak and provide corresponding voice as a live message, wherein said station converts said live message as a voice data and forwards said voice data to one or more of said plurality of voice point modules as said live message.
- [c6] 6. The evacuation system of claim 5, wherein said station sends a control data to each of said plurality of voice point modules on a control connection.
- [c7] 7. The evacuation system of claim 6, wherein said control data indicates that said voice data is to be played as said live message.
- [c8] 8. The evacuation system of claim 7, wherein said con-

trol data and said live message are sent according to H.323 protocol.

[c9] 9. The evacuation system of claim 7, wherein said station sends a second voice data to a second voice point module comprised in said plurality of voice point modules, wherein said control data requests to store said voice data in said second voice point module, said second voice point module comprising:

a memory storing a plurality of messages; and
a control block causing said voice data to be stored in said memory in response to said request.

[c10] 10. The evacuation system of claim 9, wherein said station sends a third control data requesting said second voice point module to play one of said plurality of messages, said second voice point module further comprising:

a voice module receiving said one of said plurality of messages from said memory and playing said one of said plurality of messages on a speaker.

[c11] 11. The evacuation system of claim 10, wherein said station sends a fourth control data requesting a volume of said speaker to be changed, wherein said volume of said speaker is changed in response to said fourth control data being received in said second voice point module.

[c12] 12. The evacuation system of claim 9, wherein said station sends a fifth control data requesting a telephone call be setup at said second voice point module, wherein said control block sets up said telephone call using a phone in response to receiving said fifth control data.

[c13] 13. A voice point module comprising:
a network interface having an address such that said voice point module is addressable by said address;
an audio block receiving a voice data; and
a control block receiving a control data and causing said voice data to be processed according to said control data.

[c14] 14. The voice point module of claim 13, wherein said control data specifies that said voice data is to be played as a live message, wherein said control block causes said audio block to play said voice data as said live message on a speaker in response to receiving said control data.

[c15] 15. The voice point module of claim 13, further comprising a memory, wherein said control data specifies that said voice data is to be stored in said memory as a message, wherein said control block causes said voice data to be stored in said memory in response to receiving said control data.

- [c16] 16. The voice point module of claim 15, wherein said control block receives another control data, wherein said another control data requests that said message stored in said memory be played immediately, wherein said control block causes said audio block to play said message on a speaker in response to receiving said another control data.
- [c17] 17. The voice point module of claim 13, wherein said control data specifies a volume level of a speaker is to be changed, wherein said control block causes said audio block to change said volume level of said speaker in response to receiving said control data.
- [c18] 18. The voice point module of claim 13, wherein said control data specifies that a telephone call be setup with a phone provided with said voice point module, wherein said control block causes said telephone call to be setup in response to receiving said control data.
- [c19] 19. A computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for causing a station to provide increased operational control over evacuation procedures, wherein execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes said one or more processors to perform the ac-

tions of:

sending a voice data and a control data in the form of a plurality of packets, wherein each of said plurality of packets contains an address of a voice point module, wherein said voice point module is accessible by said address, wherein said voice point module processes said voice data according to said control data.

[c20] 20. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said control data specifies that said voice data is to be played as a live message, wherein said voice point module plays said voice data as said live message on a speaker in response to receiving said control data.

[c21] 21. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said control data specifies that said voice data is to be stored in said voice point module as a message, wherein said voice point module stores said voice data in a memory in response to receiving said control data.

[c22] 22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, further comprising sending another control data to said voice point module, wherein said another control data requests that said message stored in said memory be played immediately, wherein said voice point module plays said message on a speaker in response to receiving said another control data.

[c23] 23. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said control data specifies a volume level of a speaker is to be changed, wherein said voice point module causes said volume level of said speaker to be changed in response to receiving said control data.